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## 祖先崇拜中的伦理思想研究

A Study on the Ethical Thoughts in Ancestor Worship

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## 中文摘要

中国的祖先崇拜是一种兼具宗教性与伦理性的扩散性宗教，它的宗教因素与中国社会的伦理学说、政治理念、人伦常理相联系，形成丰富的伦理思想。本论文以祖先崇拜中的伦理思想为研究对象，深入探讨祖先崇拜中的伦理思想的社会基础与理论渊源，系统梳理祖先崇拜中的生命伦理思想、家族伦理思想、政治伦理思想和神学伦理思想。

传统的自然经济形态、以血缘家族为核心的社会政治结构，以及浓厚的人文主义传统是祖先崇拜伦理思想赖以存在和发展的土壤。祖先崇拜中的伦理思想，渊源于原始宗教的伦理意识萌芽和远古神话的伦理精神；在其发展过程中，融合中国传统社会的儒道伦理精神，其中儒家宗法伦理思想是祖先崇拜中伦理思想的重要组成部分。

祖先崇拜中生命价值观的基本取向是尊生、重生，具体体现在宗庙祭祀中的生命保护、日常生活中的生命珍视、丧礼仪式中的生命关怀，以及葬礼制度中的事死如事生四个方面。关于生命永恒的思考是宗教的基本议题，祖先崇拜的生命超越性在于：祭祖仪式是沟通生死的桥梁，传宗接代成为群体生命延续的途径，而道德的传承则使有限生命获得无限的意义。

祖先崇拜与家族组织紧密相联。祖先是调节家族秩序和维护家族整体利益的神圣力量。借助祖先的威严巩固了嫡庶有别、敬孝双亲、夫尊妻顺、长幼有序的家族人伦秩序；通过共奉祖先、相亲互助、教化族人、惩戒恶行增强家族凝聚力，实现合族聚族的目的。

祖先崇拜信仰下的祭祀礼制和伦理理念在古代政治秩序的建构中发挥着重要作用。政治血统的建立、祭祖制度的运行，影响和强化了现实政权权力和政治秩序合理性建构，从而形成稳定的等级次序与和谐的君臣关系；先王遗训强调修身养德、仁政爱民、举贤任能、德主刑辅等德治精神，成为了皇族后代治国安邦、提高个人修养的重要信条。

在祖先崇拜中，人与祖先的伦理关系不是一成不变的，它经历从畏惧祖先到尊敬祖先，从重视神力到重视人事的过程。人与祖先沟通的手段和媒介，如诚敬

态度、立尸立主、祭祀乐舞等蕴含着伦理意义，具有道德教化的功能，对于修养身心、谐和人伦、激发道德情感具有一定价值。

**关键词：**祖先崇拜；生命伦理；家族伦理；政治伦理；神学伦理

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## Abstract

The ancestor worship is a diffused religion and contains rich ethical thoughts. This paper takes ancestor worship and its effect as research object, launches the discussion from five aspects as follows: the social and theoretical sources of the ethical thoughts in ancestor worship, the bioethics ideology of ancestor worship, the family ethical thoughts of ancestor worship, political ethical thoughts, theological ethical thoughts' pattern.

The traditional natural economic formation and the political structure, humanism tradition are the foundation of ethical thoughts in ancestor worship. In this paper we propose that ethical thoughts in ancestor worship originated from the ethical ideas of primitive religions and ancient myths. In the development, it absorbed Chinese traditional ethics as Confucianism and Taoism. And Confucian patriarchal ethics is an important part of the ethical thoughts in ancestor worship.

Valuing life, respecting life is the outlook of ancestor worship's life value, it shows concretely as follows: treasuring life in sacrificial rites in the ancestors' temples, cherishing life in daily life, caring for life in ritual of bereaved, dealing with death as living in funeral. Ancestor worship search for life transcendence by descendants' propagation and morality state improving.

Ancestor worship and traditional family are closely related. Ancestors are the sacred power to integrate family order and safeguard integral family interests. Under it, those conventions as firstborn considers different, showing filial piety to parents, putting husband first, respecting for seniority have been assured. Beyond that, traditional family through respecting ancestors, helping each other, teaching household and punishing evil acts to strengthen internal coagulability.

In the construction of political order, sacrificial rites in the ancestors' temples and ethical ideas under the ancestor worship are making an important role. Political pedigree, ancestral temple sacrificial ritual system intensify the political power and the



rationality of political order.Furthermore,the spiritual ruling by morality that including in ancestors's testament becomed emperors'requirement in ethics.

In ancestor worship,the relationship between hunman and ancestors is not unchangeable.This paper holds that it undergoes from fear ancestors to respect ancestors,and change from valuing the power of ancestors to valuing human affairs.Some means of communication and media between hunman and ancestors such as sincerity and respect,establishing body,dancing to music in sacrificial rituals have ethical spirits,which benefit relationship and so on.

**Key words:** ancestor worship; bioethics ideology; family ethical thoughts ; political ethical thoughts; theological ethical thoughts

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